

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A wire grid polarizer (300) for polarizing an incident light beam (130) comprises a substrate having a first surface. A grid or array of parallel, elongated, composite wires (310) is disposed on the first surface (307), and each of the adjacent wires are spaced apart on a grid period less than a wavelength of incident light. Each of the wires comprises an intra-wire substructure (315) of alternating elongated metal (330a-i) wires and elongated dielectric layers (350a-i).  
5